

Maine Regional Library System
21st Annual Reading Round-Up of Children's and Young Adult Literature
Augusta Civic Center
April 15, 2010

MAINE EXAMINATION COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

“Cream of the Crop List 2010”

Total books: 138

KEY

L	Library binding	[M] Maine Author, Illustrator, Setting
P	Paperback	
R	Reinforced trade binding	
T	Trade binding	

All of the titles on this list have been favorably reviewed by members of the Southern Maine Library District Book Review Group. Publishing date for all books is 2009.

Picture Book – Nonfiction [total books in this category: 20]

Barton, Chris. *The Day-Glo Brothers*. Charlesbridge. 978-1-57091-673-1, T \$18.95 (Grade 3-6). The advent of never-before-seen colors is a remarkable event. This book follows brothers Bob and Joe Switzer as they develop the idea for day-glo paint then produce and market their invention. (Robert F. Sibert Honor)

Bishop, Nic. *Marsupials*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-43987-758-9, T \$17.99 (Grade K-3). From kangaroos to bettongs, koalas to possums, this Nic Bishop book is filled with great information about the marsupials of Australia and beyond. Crisp, clear photos that will enthrall and excite any reader.

Chin, Jason. *Redwoods*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-430-1, T \$16.95 (Grade K-3). A boy finds on a subway a book about giant redwood trees on the subway and becomes so engrossed in learning about these amazing plants that he imagines himself exploring them from their seedling beginnings to their incredible canopies. Young readers will be engaged by the story and illustrations as they learn fascinating facts about these forest giants.

Christensen, Bonnie. *Django: World's Greatest Jazz Guitarist*. Flash Point (Roaring Brook). 978-1-59643-422-6, T \$17.99 (Grade 1-4). Snappy rhythm sets the mood for this heartfelt look at a young guitar-playing prodigy who managed to turn a personal tragedy into a melodic miracle. The life of Jean “Django” Reinhardt. (Schneider Family Book Award)

Corey, Shana. *Mermaid Queen*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-43969-835-1, T \$17.99 (Grade 3-5). This is a well-executed, colorful pictorial of the life of Annette Kellerman (late 1800s). A native of Australia, she managed to swim herself into world popularity and went on to design comfortable swimsuits for women of all ages.

Danzig, Dianne. *Babies Don't Eat Pizza: The Big Kids' Book about Baby Brothers and Baby Sisters*. Roaring Brook. 978-0-52547-441-8, R \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). What to expect when your mother is expecting -- this book is full of good information that will help to prepare young children for a new baby in the family. The humorous text and lively illustrations (featuring multicultural families) go a long way toward easing a child's fear and answering questions from the birth (or adoption) of a sibling right through to toddlerhood.

Harley, Avis. *African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways*. Candlewick. 978-0-76363-621-0, T \$17.99 (Grade 3-6). Photographs combined with imaginative poems make this book appealing to several age categories. Read the letters in the poem downward (acrostic) but also find much more to enjoy. Nice cross-curriculum title for any collection.

Heard, Georgia (Ed). *Falling Down the Page*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-220-8, R \$16.95 (Grade 3-5). Over two dozen poems in the style of a “list” varying from very simple to complex. Authors chosen for the compilation include Lee Bennett Hopkins, Jane Yolen, Marilyn Singer, David Harrison and more. This is a nicely designed package that may jump-start children to write their own list poems.

Hendrix, John. *John Brown: His Fight for Freedom*. Abrams. 978-0-81093-798-7, R \$18.95 (Grade 3-6). In the mid-1800s, John Brown was on a mission to stop the enslavement of black people and to pass laws to set them free. Larger than life illustrations of a controversial man some consider to be an American hero, John Brown's story is colorfully told.

Hughes, Langston. *My People*. Atheneum. 978-1-41693-540-7, R \$17.99 (All Ages). By using Langston Hughes beautiful words, Charles Smith is able to bring these “people” to life through sepia-style photographs that will make anyone smile. Recommended for ages 4-8...to be enjoyed by all. (Coretta Scott King Award)

Jenkins, Steve. *Never Smile at a Monkey* and 17 Other Important Things to Remember*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-61896-620-2, R \$16.00 (Grade 1-3). Presents fun facts about creatures we should never befriend. Poison, venom, toxins, lethal kicks, burning—all defense mechanisms that should make us wary of some of the strange creatures we might be curious about.

Kirby, Pamela. *What Bluebirds Do*. Boyd's Mill Press. 978-1-59078-614-7, T \$18.95 (Pre-Grade 3). This beautifully photographed book is organized around the bluebird's life cycle, starting in the springtime with a mating pair. The dramatic photographs give the reader a close-up view of bird behavior while the large text and simple, straightforward writing provide fascinating details.

LaRoche, Giles. *What's Inside? Fascinating Structures Around the World*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-61886-247-4, T \$17.00 (Grade 4-6). Painstaking, layered cut paper illustrations will entice children to examine each architectural wonder and also allow a peek inside. The author begins with an exploration of King Tutankhamen's tomb, then shows us buildings from around the world, including Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the Sydney Opera House. The book ends with two children examining *What's Inside?* in their own cozy home.

McGinty, B. Alice. *Darwin*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-61899-531-8, T \$18.00 (Grade 4-6). This biography begins with a portrait of Darwin as a child who was not successful in school and, despite his father's efforts to engage him in other careers, followed his own path to study the natural world. Darwin's theories of natural selection and evolution are made accessible to young children by a combination of the author's clarity of presentation and quotes from Darwin's own journals. Mary Azarian's woodcuts complete the package.

Medina, Tony. *I and I: Bob Marley*. Lee & Low. 978-1-60060-257-3, R \$19.95 (Grade 3-7). This is a versed-style biography of a young Bob Marley. Large paintings reveal the full portrait of a young boy who grows into talented musician with a world peace message. Sometimes growing up on a small island in the Caribbean can lead to great things.

Osborne, Linda Barrett. *Traveling the Freedom Road: From Slavery and the Civil War Through Reconstruction*. Abrams. 978-0-81098-338-0, R \$24.95 (Grade 5-8). Osborne (who is a writer and editor in the Library of Congress Publishing Office) has produced an extremely comprehensive and accessible history of African-Americans during the time of slavery through the end of reconstruction. Writings, interviews, and photographs of former slaves, abolitionists, politicians, and others give real depth to the issues presented here and paint a three dimensional portrait of the people who suffered under the institution of slavery in America.

Raczka, Bob. *The Vermeer Interviews: Conversations with Seven Works of Art*. Millbrook. 978-0-82259-402-4, T \$17.95 (Grade 4-6). The author 'interviews' the subjects of seven of Vermeer's paintings. Through the conversations, the painter's purpose and skill become clear to the young reader. This book provides a framework for young children to understand a piece of art.

Rosen, Michael. *The Cuckoo's Haiku and Other Birding Poems*. Candlewick. 978-0-76363-049-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 1-4). A breath-taking work of art combined with simple yet expressive haiku to support the North American birds highlighted in this latest Rosen offering. It presents as someone's sketchbook but becomes so much more.

Talbot, Hudson. *River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River*. Putnam. 978-0-39924-521-3, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-6). Hudson Talbot grew up near the river that gave him his name. His knowledge and love of the Hudson shine through the text and illustrations of this comprehensive book. Talbot's beautiful pen and watercolor illustrations take the reader through the geological and human history of the Hudson River and the surrounding countryside.

Taylor-Butler, Christine. *Sacred Mountain Everest*. Lee & Low. 978-1-60060-255-9, T \$19.95 (Grade 4-6). The reader will be drawn into this book about the Sherpa people and the mountain that is a sacred place as well as a tourist destination. The readable text and fascinating photographs provide the young explorer with information about the culture, geography, flora, and fauna of the mountain that inspires great adventure and fabulous myth.

Picture Book – Fiction [total books in this category: 29]

Ashman, Linda. *Come to the Castle*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-155-3, T \$17.95 (Grade 3-5). This clever book offers a fascinating portrait of 13th century England. The Earl of Daftwood is giving a party and his not-so-loyal servants are forced into action. In rhyming verse, each servant--the steward, the herald, the cook, and others--lament the difficulty of their work and the lack of resources – it seems that things haven't changed much in 800 years.

Aylesworth, Jim. *The Mitten*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-43992-544-0, R \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 2). Aylesworth's retelling of the Ukrainian folk tale is quite extraordinary. Children familiar with the story will squeal with delight when they see what twists the author has cleverly knitted into this new version.

Barasch, Lynne. *First Come the Zebra*. Lee & Low. 978-1-60060-365-5, R \$18.95 (Grade 1-3). As the animals migrate through Kenya, two boys from different tribes (Maasai and Kikuyu) must find a way to put away their differences to help a

family in distress. A multi-faceted story that can perhaps shed light on ongoing conflict and hope for peace.

Black, Michael. *Chicken Cheeks (The Beginning of the Ends)*. Simon & Schuster. T 978-141694-864-3, R \$15.99 [M] (Pre-Grade 3). This silly story is a catalog of animal backsides, as a hungry bear piles up his animal friends to reach a beehive. The hilarious illustrations provide much of the humor and are by Maine's own Kevin Hawkes.

Boutignon, Beatrice. *Not All Animals are Blue: Big Book of Little Differences*. Kane/Miller. 978-1-93360-596-8, T \$15.95 (Pre-Grade 3). A quiet, thoughtful lap book for young children that will help to develop comprehension, vocabulary, and visual discrimination skills. Children will pour over the charmingly detailed, slightly eccentric animals in the illustrations as they try to find the one that matches the clue in the text.

Brendler, Carol. *Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-37438-440-1, T \$15.99 (Grade K-3). This is the imaginative, innovative story of Winnie and her goal to enter a different sort of creature into the Quincy County Fair. Experience this story with a class or small group and see how creative they can be. Includes instructions on worm farming.

Docherty, Thomas. *To the Beach*. Candlewick. 978-0-76364-429-1, T \$15.99 (Grade K-3). Ready for the beach, a little boy has all the essentials: goggles, snorkel, bucket, and flippers, but he needs something more. This starts the reader on some unexpected globetrotting. Simple text, action packed double-page illustrations make this a transportation lover's dream!

Emberley, Rebecca. *Chicken Little*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-464-6, T \$16.95 (Pre-Grade 1). The Emberleys (Rebecca and Ed) work together to recreate the old favorite of Henny Penny and the sky falling. "Oh my goodness! Oh my gracious!" What a great addition to any library collection.

Ford, Christine and Trish Holland. *Ocean's Child*. Golden Books. 978-0-37584-752-3, T \$15.99 (Pre-Grade 2). The quiet colors, swirling lines, and repeating text make this an ideal bedtime story as an Inuit mother and her child kayak in an evening sea. The stunning illustrations of ocean creatures reference Pacific Northwest native art.

Fox, Mem. *The Goblin and the Empty Chair*. Beach Lane. 978-1-41698-585-3, T \$17.99 (Grade K-2). Illustrated to suggest an age-old fable, this Mem Fox tale reveals a possibly deformed goblin secretly rescuing a family from their chores as they mourn the loss of a family member. The family notices him and eventually welcomes the goblin to their table.

Gerstein, Mordecai. *A Book*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-251-2, R \$16.96 (Grade K-4). This is a reader's eye view of a family of characters--storybook characters. The youngest child, a little girl, searches through several genres to discover what her story will be.

Gliori, Debi. *Stormy Weather*. Walker. 978-0-80279-419-2 T \$15.99 (Preschool). This is a whimsical bedtime story to be shared over and over with children who love to snuggle at night or naptime. Gliori's use of color and ability to utilize every inch of space on the page makes for an eye-catching, yet soothing bedtime tale.

Gourley, Robbin. *Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story about Edna Lewis*. Clarion Books. 978-0-6181-5836-2, R \$16.00 (Grade K-3). Edna Lewis is a girl with food on her mind -- spring doesn't mean jumping rope or playing hopscotch -- it's the time for fresh food from the garden. Gourley's lovely watercolors highlight the food, but also the family that works together to gather and grow the produce that will sustain them through the coming year.

Haddon, Mark. *Footprints on the Moon*. Candlewick. 978-7-6364-440-6, T \$16.99 (Grade K-2). As a young boy, Haddon recalls watching Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landing on the moon. The mission of Apollo 11 piqued interests of children around the globe. Back matter includes a timeline of the event.

Hegamin, Tonya Cherie. *Most Loved in all the World*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-61843-903-6, T \$14.95 (Grade K-3). The powerful story of a young woman who by day is a field slave on a cotton plantation and at night serves as an agent on the underground railroad. The story centers on a patchwork quilt full of symbols that will reassure and guide her young daughter as she escapes to freedom.

Henkes, Kevin. *Birds*. Greenwillow. 978-0-06136-304-7, T \$17.99 (Pre-Grade 1). A little girl takes note of the many different characteristics of birds, some she can see, some she can imagine. The simple directness of the text and illustrations will encourage young readers to more closely observe the natural world around them.

Hopgood, Tim. *Wow! Said the Owl*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-374381-518-7, T \$14.95 (Preschool). What happens if a nocturnal creature stays up to experience things missed during its normal time of sleep? Preschoolers will love this story filled with all the colors of the spectrum. A color wheel is provided.

Kladstrup, Kristin. *Gingerbread Pirates*. Candlewick. 978-0-76363-223-6, T \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 2). Jim and his mom create a different shape of Christmas cookies for the holidays—pirates. When Captain Cookie overhears that he and his crew will be offered to Santa as a "snack" he must find a way to save his men from Santa's belly. All hands on deck for this one!

Krouse, Amy Rosenthal. *Duck! Rabbit!* Chronicle Books. 978-0-81186-865-5, T \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). Is it a duck or a

rabbit? Two unseen children disagree over an animal they are both observing. A book that will spark discussion on conflicting points of view.

Lowry, Lois. *Crow Call*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-54503-035-9, T \$16.99 (Grade 2-5). On a cold November morning, a tentative young girl and her father (who has just returned from WWII) set out to hunt crows, but the day is really spent becoming reacquainted after his long absence. The beautiful watercolor and acryl-gouache paintings set the story in the 1940s, but the essence of this tale of a parent's return from war will ring true to many children in the year 2010.

Mahy, Margaret. *Bubble Trouble*. Clarion Books. 978-0-54707-421-4, R \$16.00 (Grade K-1). How will the entire town save the helpless baby encapsulated inside a blown bubble as it drifts farther and farther out of sight? Polly Dunbar's soft watercolors set the tone of this story of an infant caught in a wafting bubble that just won't pop.

McDonald, Megan. *It's Picture Day Today!* Atheneum. 978-1-41692-434-0, T \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). A craft box full of odds and ends roars into school on picture day but the class is not complete until the glue arrives. The pieces come together to make a happily disparate group of characters - not unlike most grade school classes!

McEligott, Matthew. *The Lion's Share*. Walker. 978-0-80279-769-8, T \$16.99 (Grade K-3). A regal lion invites a group of animals for dinner. They all behave badly except for the ant who is horrified when, at the end of the meal, the other guests have eaten all the cake. Thus begins a story of halving and doubling that will engage young readers in several mathematical concepts.

Novak, Matt. *The Everything Machine*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-286-4, T 17.99 (Grade K-3). The planet Quirk is given an "Everything Machine" that efficiently performs all the work that needs to be done. When the machine breaks down, the populace of Quirk starts to understand and value independence, practice, and pride in a job well done. Sure to spark some interesting discussion in our technology-dependent world!

Prosek, James. *Bird, Butterfly, Eel*. Simon & Schuster. 978-0-68986-829-0, R \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). Paintings and text created by Prosek present the story of a bird, butterfly, and an eel as they start their individual journeys to migrate south from a New England farm. A map of their specific paths (Argentina, Mexico, and the Sargasso Sea) is integrated into the story.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. *All the World*. Beach Lane. 978-1-41698-580-8, R \$17.99 (Pre-Grade 1). "All the world is here. It is there. It is everywhere." Marla Frazee's soft pencil and watercolor illustrations create the place while Scanlon's text creates the cadence. Together, their words and pictures remind us all to stop, look around, and to experience and be present in whatever moment we are in—right now. (Caldecott Honor)

Soctomah, Donald. *Remember Me: Tomah Joseph's Gift to Franklin Roosevelt*. Tilbury House. 978-0-88448-300-7, T \$16.95 [M] (Grade 2-5). A gentle informative story about a young Franklin D. Roosevelt and the special friendship he made with Tomah Joseph, a former chief and elder of the Passamaquoddy Nation. Three talented individuals from Maine create a story to be enjoyed by all.

Van Dusen, Chris. *The Circus Ship*. Candlewick. 978-0-76363-090-4, R \$16.99 [M] (Grade K-3). Fifteen animals are traveling aboard a ship that is steaming toward the next performance in Boston when they hit a ledge off the Maine coast. The ship sinks and the animals desperately swim toward a nearby island where they charm the people of a small town there. Children will enjoy the 'seek and find' aspect of the wonderfully detailed illustrations. (Lupine Award for Picture Book)

Wild, Margaret. *Piglet and Granny*. Abrams. 978-0-81094-063-5, T \$15.95 (Pre-Grade 1). Piglet encounters several farm animal friends as he anxiously awaits his granny's arrival. Each in turn admires his newly learned skills (which granny has taught him) until she finally appears and we learn the reason for her tardiness. A gentle story of a lively grandparent/grandchild relationship.

Nonfiction [total books in this category: 22]

Calcines, Eduardo F. *Leaving Glorytown: One Boy's Struggle Under Castro*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-374-34394-1, T \$17.95 (Grade 7-12). Biographical tale of Calcines' childhood in Cuba. Once his parents applied for exit visas to the US, members of the family were treated as traitors. We learn of the grandparents and close friends who loved the boy regardless, and his slow awakening to the realities around him. Although he left Cuba 40 years ago, Calcines' memories remain vivid and full of immediacy.

Chaikin, Andrew. *Mission Control, this is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*. Viking. 978-0-670-01156-8, T \$23.99 (Grade 4-12). Introduces the Apollo space program, with input from astronauts who flew the missions. Paintings by Alan Bean, Apollo 12 astronaut, lend authenticity. Each flight warrants a three-page narrative. Additions include information about the team back at Mission Control, specifics of space clothing, how a space diet minimized bowel movements, and how the paintings were created.

Fleming, Candace. *The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum*. Schwartz &

Wade. 978-0-375-84197-2, T \$18.99 (Grade 5-12). A lively biography covers Barnum's life and social relationships, along with the exhibits and publicity that made him famous. Extensive source notes, numerous illustrations and clear writing make this a choice for browsers as well as report writers.

Jackson, Donna M. *Extreme Scientists: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-77706-8, T, \$18 (Grade 5-10). From cave depths, to tree canopy ecosystems to eyes of hurricanes, we meet three researchers with cutting edge careers that can be an inspiration to students. We learn what they do, what got them interested, and some of the challenges they face. Photos bring their work to life.

Jurmain, Suzanne. *The Secret of the Yellow Death*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-96581-6, T \$19.00 (Grade 6-12). Occupying Cuba after the Spanish-American War, U.S. soldiers face a deadlier enemy: yellow fever, a lethal disease with no known cause. This riveting tale of medical detectives meticulously following obscure clues emphasizes both the critical roles of science and personal courage.

Kaufman, Michael T. 1968. *Roaring Brook*. 978-1-59643-428-8, T \$22.95 (Grade 6-12). This visually striking account of worldwide events throughout the newsworthy year of 1968 pairs articles and photos from the *New York Times* with narratives from the journalists who filed the original stories, effectively bringing history to life. A timeline and the text of each news story are included.

Lourie, Peter. *Whaling Season: A Year in the Life of an Arctic Whale Scientist*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-77709-9, L \$18.00 (Grade 6-8). Another winning entry in the *Scientists in the Field* series, this beautifully photographed offering intensively chronicles the work of biologist John Craighead George. His experience within a community of Iñupiaq people who are whalers in Barrow, Alaska provides a fascinating perspective.

Mann, Charles C. *Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491*. Atheneum. 978-1-4169-4900-8, R \$24.99 (Grade 6-12). Mann takes readers step-by-step through the ancient cultures of the Americas, frequently reminding readers of simultaneously evolving cultures in the old world, for point of comparison. Accompanied by large color photographs, maps and etchings, as well as ample back matter.

Martin, Russell and Lydia Nibley. *The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair*. Charlesbridge. 978-1-57091-714-1, T \$15.95 (Grade 6-12). An account of the present day analysis of a lock of hair from the head of the legendary composer, this engrossing work of non-fiction details the remarkable back-story of how the hair made the journey through history. While the lack of source notes is problematic, this is a fascinating read that will pique readers' interest in both the composer and the field of forensics.

McLaughlin, Julie. *Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet*. Chronicle. 978-0-8118-6779-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-8). Inspiring and graphically appealing, this collection of very short biographies presents the work and backgrounds of twelve people in North America whose efforts are making a positive impact on the environment. Those profiled range from scientists to farmers to electricians, and each entry features a satisfying blend of personal background and explanation of the subject's work.

Murphy, Jim. *A Savage Thunder: Antietam and the Bloody Road to Freedom*. Margaret K. McElderry. 878-0-689-87633-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 6-12). Murphy captures the full horror of the slogging, face-to-face conflict along the banks of a muddy Maryland creek, the bloodiest day in American history, utilizing period photographs—the ones of young soldiers are especially moving—primary sources, maps and etchings to clearly portray the complex maneuvers of two determined armies.

Murphy, Jim. *Truce*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-545-13049-3, T, \$19.99 (Grade 5-10). Striking images and lots of primary sources contribute to an understanding of the complex political situation leading to World War I. Propaganda and disillusionment lead to the extended Christmas truce brokered by those on the frontlines. Controversies of the lead-up to the Iraq War are referenced in the epilogue, which seems out-of-place, and was a cause of concern for some Cream committee members.

O'Brien, Anne Sibley & Perry Edmond O'Brien. *After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance*. Charlesbridge. 978-1-58089-129-5, T \$24.95 (Grade 6-10). A selection of peaceful political movements around the world are concisely explained in this chronologically arranged volume which includes a range of well and lesser-known struggles.

Peterson, Cris. *Birchbark Brigade: A Fur Trade History*. Calkins Creek. 978-1-59078-426-6, T \$18.95 (Grade 7-12). This thorough and readable history of the fur trade provides information about explorers, early relations with Native Americans, the superpowers' wars of the 17th-19th centuries and economic development in North America. Printed on soft textured paper that enhances the historic feel of the book.

Poe, Edgar Allan. *Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Death and Dementia*. Atheneum. 978-1-4169-5025-7, T \$18.99 (Grade 6-10). Four of Poe's short stories are included in this illustrated adaptation. Cris Grimly's watercolor and ink creations are spidery

and dark, perfectly complementing Poe's eerie tales. While the language is simplified in some of the stories, Poe's foreboding tone is neatly retained.

Swanson, James L. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-439-90354-7, T \$16.99 (Grade 6-12). Based on *Manhunt* (for adult readers) this simplified version follows in the footsteps of John Wilkes Booth in the days leading up to and just following the April 14, 1865 assassination of Abraham Lincoln. In spite of lacking a bibliography or index, the compelling tale makes it a worthy and highly entertaining read.

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Lucy Long Ago: Uncovering the Mystery of Where We Came From*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-547-05199-4, R \$18.00 (Grade 5-8). Every few years, paleontology teams discover another hominid in eastern Africa. Utilizing succinct, brief explanations, dramatic photographs and an interesting sculpture of "Lucy", this work will leave readers with a clear understanding of the evolving science of early hominid evolution. A must-read for budding paleo-anthropologists.

Turner, Pamela S. *The Frog Scientist*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-71716-3, R \$18.00 (Grade 5-8). As a child, Tyrone Hayes collected frogs. His early hobby led him to a career as an amphibian scientist, researching the effect of a common pesticide on frogs—and the wider environment. Large illustrations and readable text follow both his career path from childhood, and the careful steps of his scientific experiments.

Van Meter, Larry A. *Women Win the Vote The Hard Fought Battle for Women's Suffrage*. Enslow. 978-0-7660-2940-8, L \$31.93 (Grade 7-12). The path of women's suffrage is more like a tower, each effort built upon what preceded it. Starting with Abigail Adams' "Remember the ladies," and the efforts of nearly unknown Esther Morris in Wyoming Territory, Van Meter takes readers through the ups and downs of the women's efforts to be allowed to vote, documenting the better known people involved, as well as some unsung heroes.

Vogel, Carole Garbuny and Leshem, Yossi. *The Man Who Flies with Birds*. Kar-Ben Publishing. 978-0-8225-7643-3, R \$18.95 (Grade 5-12). Leshem began his bird-watching career as a child, but took it to a new high when he convinced the Israeli Air Force to loan him the use of a plane and a pilot to track migratory bird routes, in hope of preventing all-too-common airplane/bird collisions. Information on bird migration abounds, accompanied by large color photographs and useful maps.

Walker, Sally M. *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*. Carolrhoda. 978-0-8225-7135-3, R \$22.95 (Grade 6-12). Focusing on four archaeological digs along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, Walker describes in riveting detail the discovery and examination of the skeletal remains of an abused apprentice, a man, woman and child of significant wealth, a few of the earliest settlers at Jamestown, and a group of African-American farmers, likely slaves. Although not fully addressed, this book also raises the question of the moral ambiguity of excavating graves: a nice jumping off point for further discussion.

Warren, Andrea. *Under Siege: Three Children at the Civil War Battle for Vicksburg*. Melanie Kroupa Books. 978-0-374-31255-8, T \$21.95 (Grade 5-12). By focusing with meticulous detail on the stories of three children, two trapped within the city of Vicksburg, and one, the son of General Grant, with the troops that laid siege, Walker has found an innovative way to attract young readers that might not usually pick up a Civil War history. Period photographs, etchings and maps round out the presentation.

Fiction [total books in this category: 67]

Almond, David. *Raven Summer*. Delacorte Press. 978-0-385-73806-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 7-12). Fourteen-year-olds Liam and Max loved to play war games around their English village, set against the backdrop of the first Iraqi war. After they discover an abandoned baby, and eventually meet a young war refugee from Africa, Max begins to take on a more adult role. Liam lags behind – until events bring him to a better understanding of the real costs of battle.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. Viking. 978-0-670-01110-0, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Lia's anorexia is experienced in visceral terms. She is haunted by her recently deceased friend, who died from bulimia. Some reviewers worry about potential triggers, with inclusion of pro-anorexia websites and calorie counts. Anderson provides insight into both anorexia and bulimia.

Avi. *Murder at Midnight*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-545-08090-3, T \$17.99 (Grade 6-12). Young Fabrizio firmly believes in the "magic" performed by the scholar/magician he's apprenticed to, and frequently denies his own wisdom, but using his street smarts and unique problem solving skills, he gets to the bottom of a crime that endangers their lives. Fast-paced, fun and believably set in a backward 15th century Italian town.

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything But Typical*. Simon & Schuster. 978-1-4169-6378-3, T \$15.99 (Grade 6-12). From somewhere on the autistic spectrum, twelve-year-old Jason explores the neurotypical world. Although he knows the rules of that world, living within them can be a struggle, and so going to meet a girl he has corresponded with online—his first friend?—is a huge challenge for this smart, likeable boy. His believable efforts will provide insight for his more typical peers.

Becker, Bonnie. *The Magical Ms. Plum*. Alfred Knopf. 978-0-37585-637-2, T \$12.99 (Grade 2-4). Magical things reside in Ms. Plum's classroom closet. As each child in turn is sent to the closet to fetch paper or pencils, he or she returns with a tiny animal that helps the student sort through a personal problem. At the end of every school year, Ms. Plum says goodbye to a perfect class, each child having benefitted from the wisdom of the magical Ms. Plum.

Bragg, Georgia. *Matisse on the Loose*. Delacorte Press. 978-0-38573-570-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Matisse is born into an art-loving family. He loves to visit the art museum after school each day to work on his own techniques. What would happen if Matisse switched one of his pieces with one of museums famous paintings? Would anyone notice? A virtual tornado of events that will eventually calm into a gentle breeze.

Bredsdorff, Bodil. *Eidi*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-37431-267-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). Set on the Danish coastline in a time when people lived in self-sufficient farming and fishing villages, this second novel in the *Children of Crow Cove* series features the independent Eidi as its main character. After the birth of a new baby to her mother and stepfather, Eidi senses that it is time for her to make her way in the world. With hints of magic, the fair-minded, brave Eidi finds happiness on her own path. Filled with glimpses of the pleasures and pain of family life. (Mildred L. Batchelder Honor)

Brennan, Sarah Rees. *The Demon's Lexicon*. Margaret K. McElderry. 978-1-4169-6379-0, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). A dark fantasy in which magicians rule demons that prey on humans. Brothers Nick and Alan live a life on the run with their insane mother. Nick grows increasingly angry when Alan takes in two teens and risks his own life for theirs. The surprise twist at the end will shake readers' concept of the benevolence of magicians, held since Harry Potter burst onto the scene. A unique first novel.

Bryant, Jen. *Kaleidoscope Eyes*. Alfred Knopf. 978-0-375-84048-7, T \$15.99 (Grade 6-12). In free verse from the point of view of Lyza, three friends on the brink of entering high school in a Viet Nam War era New Jersey town set out on a plausible pirate treasure hunt. Malcolm, who is African-American, has to cope with racial prejudice and the two girls are dealing with family issues, as body bags from the war punctuate the summer. Pop music lyrics from the era pitch perfectly begin each chapter.

Burd, Nick. *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*. Penguin. 978-0-80373-340-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 9-12). As his parents' marriage implodes the summer before he leaves for college, 18-year-old Dade falls in love with his first real boyfriend, who is kind, thoughtful and also a drug-dealer. Strong, funny characters and lovely turns of phrase elevate this coming-of-age story into the sublime.

Burg, Ann E. *All the Broken Pieces*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-545-08092-7, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-8). In 1977, a boy adopted from war-torn Viet Nam by a loving American couple struggles with his terrible memories, contends with prejudice and develops a talent for baseball. Told in verse, this emotionally charged, spare novel presents a unique perspective of a tragic historical period.

Calame, Don. *Swim the Fly*. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-4157-3, T \$16.99 (Grade 9-12). Gleefully lewd, this wildly comedic novel follows three friends on what they establish as their summer quest – to see a real girl naked. Abundant scatological humor is nicely balanced with authentic, sympathetic characters that readers will recognize and find endearing.

Carmichael, Clay. *Wild Things*. Front Street Press. 978-1-59078-627-7, T \$18.95 (Grade 5-8). Following the death of her mentally ill mother, 11-year-old Zoe is adopted by her artist uncle. Stability being an unaccustomed experience, much of this quiet, resplendently witty novel chronicles her process of beginning to accept and embrace her new surroundings. Interspersed is a narrative from the point of view of a cat living under Zoe's uncle's porch – an appealing parallel.

Cashore, Kristin. *Fire*. Dial. 978-0-80373-461-6, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). Adventure and romance blend in this fantasy set in the same universe as Cashore's debut novel, *Graceling*. Billed as a prequel, this offering easily stands on its own. Readers will be held rapt by the titular character, Fire, who is tormented by her half-monster/half-human genetic background.

Collins, Suzanne. *Catching Fire*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-439-02349-8, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). This nuanced follow-up to 2008's *Hunger Games* about a futuristic society in which kids are selected by lottery to take part in a televised fight to the death features a propulsive mix of action and searing ethical dilemmas. The cliffhanger ending will have readers lining up to read the concluding volume in the trilogy, *Mockingjay*, due out in August 2010.

Combres, Elisabeth, translated by Shelley Tanaka. *Broken Memory: A Novel of Rwanda*. Groundwood Books. 978-0-88899-892-7, T \$18.95, (Grade 9-12). Nine years after the slaughter of Tutsis by the Hutus, Emma is left frozen and vacant by memories of her mother's brutal murder. She learns to discern the true victims of the genocide. Remaining distant, she recognizes that the local boy who, before he succumbed to torture, revealed the movements of friends who were later killed, is equally a victim. An author's note provides historical details. Translated from French, and based upon interviews with survivors of the holocaust.

Daly, Niki. *Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-37430-753-0, T \$15.95 (Grade 3-5). Miss Pyle, the beloved art teacher, will not be at school this year. Bettina is crushed! When she sees that Mr. Peppard (Pop Art) is “art in motion” she rallies quickly. Tough classmates make school days a bit challenging, but in the end Bettina does not give up, does not give in, and through it all manages to achieve many goals.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Magician’s Elephant*. Candlewick. 978-0-76364-410-9, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). This atmospheric and evocative story pulls the reader into the dim, gray winter of an unnamed eastern European city. The tale unwinds and intertwines as an orphaned young boy searches for his lost sister, an inept magician is jailed for a trick gone wrong, a woman despairs about her paralyzed legs, and an elephant longs for her home on the plains of Africa. A story of a journey from despair to simple joy in the satisfaction of an ordinary life.

Dowd, Siobhan. *Solace of the Road*. David Fickling Books. 978-0-375-84971-8, T \$17.99 (Grade 8-12). Fifteen-year-old Holly, a ward of the state, after not connecting with her new foster parents, dons a blond wig, calls herself Solace, and sets off on the road to Ireland, in hopes of finding her mother who long ago abandoned her. Solace’s pithy, fully realized character weaves in and out of encounters with a variety of others, each fueling her exploration of her real past, not the one she’s invented to lessen her emotional pain.

Easton, Kelly. *The Outlandish Adventures of Liberty Aimes*. Wendy Lamb Books. 978-0-375-83771-5, T \$15.99 (Grade 4-8). Liberty, ten-years-old, has been held prisoner in her home for her whole life by her evil, scheming father and down-trodden, enormously obese mother. In an over-the-top fantasy, she drinks a magic potion and floats off into a series of bizarre, funny adventures. Short cliff-hanging chapters, humor and droll black and white illustrations make this a perfect choice for readers, listeners and fans of Dahl and Snickett.

Frost, Helen. *Crossing Stones*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-374-31653-2, T \$16.99 (Grade 6-12). Blending poems written from the perspective of three different characters living at the time of the outbreak of World War I, this historical fiction offering explores the experience of soldiers and those left at home in a uniquely elegant format that appears deceptively simple.

Gill, David MacInnes. *Soul Enchilada The Devil is in the Details*. Greenwillow. 978-0-06-167301-6, T \$16.99 (Grade 8-12). Maybe girl-with-an-attitude Bug hasn’t led the most saintly of lives to date, but does she really deserve having to relinquish her soul to the devil in just sixty-one hours because he covets her deceased grandfather’s ’58 Cadillac—the only thing of value that’s hers? Hilarious, fast-paced fantasy with a worthy soul of its own.

Griffin, Paul. *Orange Houses*. Dial. 978-0-8037-3346-6, T \$16.99 (Grade 9-12). A gritty tale introduces us to illegal immigrant Fatima, Iraqi War vet Jimmi, and 15-year-old Mik, who challenge all stereotypes. Mik turns off her hearing aids to block out the chaos around her. Although feared as a junkie, Jimmi reaches her with his kindness. Fatima touches lives with her artwork, and risks her freedom to save Jimmi’s life. Skillfully interwoven lives in inner city New York remind us to hesitate when judging others.

Harper, Jessica. *Underpants on My Head*. Putnam. 978-0-39924-672-2, T \$14.99 (Grade 2-4). A young family goes out for a hike on a warm, summer day but as they walk up the mountain they are enveloped by an unexpected snowstorm. The story telling remains light but the seriousness of the situation is revealed in the older sister’s fear. The illustrations, adventure, and humor will delight readers transitioning into chapter books.

Herrick, Steven. *Cold Skin*. Front Street. 978-1-59078-572-0, T \$18.95 (Grade 8-12). Told in brief poetic chapters in the voices of several different characters, this coming of age tale relates the tragic murder of a teenaged girl and the effect on her small town that the resulting investigation has. Each voice is unique and believable, a remarkably quick and engrossing read.

Hiassen, Carl. *Scat*. Alfred Knopf. 978-0-375-83486-8. T, \$16.99 (Grade 6-9). A fast-paced, funny environmental mystery, this newest offering by Hiassen will be familiar territory to readers who’ve read his past books for youth. Still, that won’t lessen enjoyment of this page-turning, very funny thriller involving a juvenile delinquent, a tough-as-nails high school biology teacher and an endangered Florida panther.

Jinks, Catherine. *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*. Harcourt. 978-0-15-206609-3, T \$17.00 (Grade 7-12). Not for the squeamish, this tale gives the brutal reality of life for vampires committed to not fanging humans. As they try to determine who has infiltrated their group and staked one of their members, they also rescue a werewolf and try to keep the less committed members from returning to human blood. Much different than the vampire romance novels so prevalent!

Kane, Kim. *Pip: The Story of Olive*. David Fickling Books. 978-0-385-75171-1, T \$15.99 (Grade 4-8). Olive copes with her exclusion from social circles and her absent mother by creating Pip, her long-lost, adventurous twin. With Pip at her side, she searches for her unknown father, reaching closure on her childhood dreams.

LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey*. Wendy Lamb Books. 978-0-38573-774-6. T \$15.99 (Grade 5-7). After a terrible accident claims the life of her father and sister and her grief-stricken mother disappears, eleven-year-old Aubrey goes to stay with her grandmother. With sensitivity, moments of warm humor and realism, this short novel relates Aubrey's story.

Larbalestier, Justine. *Liar*. Bloomsbury. 978-1-59990-305-7, T \$16.99 (Grade 9-12). A quintessentially unreliable narrator, teenage misfit and self-proclaimed compulsive liar Micah relates a story rife with suspense and appealingly eerie tension about her boyfriend's murder and the role she may or may not have played in it.

Lee, Tony. *Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood*. Candlewick. 978-0-76364-400-0, T \$11.99 (Grade 6-12). Shaded yet richly colored panels and pithy dialogue depict the transformation of Robin of Loxley into the familiar folk hero in this engaging graphic novel adaptation.

McLachlan, Patricia. *The True Gift: A Christmas Story*. Atheneum. 978-1-41699-081-9, T \$12.99 (Grade 2-4). Liam and his sister Lily (who narrates the story) spend the week before Christmas on their grandparents' farm. Liam is so touched by what he perceives as the loneliness of an old cow, that he goes to great lengths to find her a companion. A sweet story of children who bring a community together and help all to understand the meaning of a true gift.

Millard, Glenda. *The Naming of Tishkin Silk*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-37435-481-7, T \$15.99 (Grade 3-5). Young Griffin has experienced the loss of a mother and sister and now has to endure trying to fit in at school. A story set in rural Australia. This would be a nice offering for families with school-age children who may have suffered a significant loss.

Mills, Claudia. *How Oliver Olson Changed the World*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-37433-487-1, T \$15.95 (Grade 2-4). Mrs. O'Neill's third-grade class is working on a huge planetary project. Oliver would like/love to participate but every time he tries, his parents take over and complete his homework. What will it take to stand up to his parents? A great read aloud filled with lots of fun, up-to-date facts about the solar system.

Mitchell, Sandra. *Shadowed Summer*. Delacorte Press. 978-0-385-73571-1, T \$15.99 (Grade 7-12). In this creepy and atmospheric tale, fourteen-year-old Iris is being haunted by the angry ghost of Elijah, a boy who disappeared when her father was a teen. First out of boredom, but later because they know the answers are important, she and her friends search for the truth behind Elijah's death, even as they uncover secrets the adults in town want to keep hidden.

Nelson, R.A. *Days of Little Texas*. Alfred Knopf. 978-0-375-85593-1, T, \$16.99 (Grade 7-12). Sixteen-year-old preacher "Little Texas" struggles to remain holy while confronting his sexual urges. The object of his affection turns out to be a ghost, who forces him to re-examine his definition of evil. How could good Christian people own slaves? Asking deep questions and increasingly scary, this novel offers a story that can be enjoyed on many levels.

Ness, Patrick. *The Ask and the Answer*. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-4490-1, T \$18.99 (Grade 8-12). This second installment in a planned series picks up where the first left off, with two teens who have found their way to a town outside the terrifying, all-male settlement they escaped. Sadly, however, they have not found safety. Readers must be familiar with the first volume, *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, to grasp this one, but both in its masterful use of language and in a conceptual sense, this is dystopian science fiction at its best.

O'Connor, Barbara. *The Small Adventures of Popeye and Elvis*. Frances Foster Books. 978-0-37437-055-8, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). According to Popeye (Henry) nothing ever happens in Fayette, North Carolina. An RV gets stuck in a ditch just outside Popeye's home. Out pops Elvis (a boy Popeye's age) and the rest of his family. A great adventure story filled with lots of interesting, accessible vocabulary words.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Starclimber*. EOS/HarperCollins. 978-0-06-085057-9, T, \$17.99 (Grade 6-12). Science fiction, historical fiction, and adventure in one package. In a world of futuristic space exploration, the suffragette movement continues to free women from the narrow roles assigned to them. Astronaut Matt and scientist Kate are part of an exploration reaching further into space than ever before tried. Kate's discovery of alien life forms is overshadowed when they attach themselves to the cord connecting the ship to earth, endangering its return. Unexpected twists and ever-present danger keep readers engaged. Although a sequel to *Airborn* and *Skybreaker*, this title stands alone.

Parker, Robert B. *Chasing the Bear*. Philomel Books. 978-0-399-24776-7, T \$14.99 (Grade 7-12). In the last years of his life, Parker moved his writing career in new directions. Offering a Spencer tale for younger readers is just one of those. Spencer, a remarkably ethical P.I., tells long-time significant other Susan about boyhood experiences that framed his adult point of view. Very brief, thrilling and including a plausible positive role model, this is an outstanding choice, especially for young male reluctant readers.

Parry, Roseanne. *Heart of a Shepherd*. Random House. 978-0-375-84802-5, T \$15.99 (Grade 5-8). After Brother's father is sent off to the Iraqi war, and his older brothers have moved away, he is left to manage the family ranch under the direction of his aged grandfather. Brother's sweet, sensitive nature is perfectly conveyed in a chapter portraying a chess game where

he identifies personally with each of the pieces. Perfect, moving, evocative, and outstanding for any young reader facing growing up too soon.

Peet, Mal. *Exposure*. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-3941-9, T \$18.99 (Grade 9-12). A modern day reworking of Shakespeare's *Othello* set in an unnamed South American country, this thriller features one of Peet's recurring characters, sportswriter Paul Faustino. A black soccer mega-star from a poor background falls in love with the white pop-singer daughter of a wealthy, conservative politician and his duplicitous agent destroys their relationship. Mesmerizing, even for those who already know how it will end.

Petersen, P.J. *Wild River*. Delacorte Press. 978-0-385-73724-1, T \$14.99 (Grade 4-8). Ryan prefers video games to the outdoors, but when his older brother nearly drowns on a kayaking trip, it falls to Ryan to save his life. He pulls in what he's learned from video games—try something different if the first doesn't work. Ryan's mistakes make the tale more realistic. Fans of *Hatchet* will enjoy this fast paced journey of the outdoors.

Phelan, Matt. *The Storm in the Barn*. Candlewick. 978-0-76363-618-0, R \$24.99 (Grade 5-7). This is the graphic novel of a boy named Jack living in Kansas, circa 1937. As the story progresses and Jack decides to finally face the "storm in the barn" the color shifts from dark to light (dread to hope). A well-executed story of a real time and place in history.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The (Mostly) True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*. Blue Sky Press. 978-0-4396-618-7, T \$16.99 [M] (Grade 4-6). When his mean uncle Squint sells his beloved brother Harold into the Union army, Homer P. Figg sets out from Pine Swamp, Maine to rescue him. Homer (who is plenty sharp but is never above playing fast and loose with the truth), recounts his adventures in this fast moving Civil War era tale. While the tone is often light, the author also deals with the horrors of the battlefield and the injustices of slavery. (Newbery Honor and Lupine Award for Juvenile/Young Adult)

Pinkwater, Daniel. *The Yggyssey: How Iggy Wondered What Happened to All the Ghosts, Found Out Where They Went, and Went There*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-59445-0, T \$16.00 (Grade 6-8). This hilarious follow up to 2008's *The Neddiad* is every bit as wild in premise, following Iggy, Neddie and Seamus as they endeavor to solve a mystery involving missing ghosts in a magical 1950s Los Angeles.

Potter, Ellen. *Slob*. Philomel. 978-0399247057, T \$16.99 (Grade 6-8). Ostensibly about cookies being stolen from the lunch of an overweight boy, this offbeat mystery cleverly delivers much more. Carefully plotted and perfectly timed, an unusual and poignant back-story emerges, with flares of humor throughout.

Salisbury, Graham. *Calvin Coconut: The Zippy Fix*. Wendy Lamb Books. 978-0-38573-702-9, T \$12.99 (Grade 3-5). Although Stella, the babysitter, is not Calvin's favorite person, he tries to find a way to earn money for her upcoming birthday gift. Set in Hawaii, this chapter book is filled with kids being kids, doing the right thing, and being happy with themselves. (Second in a series)

Slade, Arthur. *The Hunchback Assignments*. Wendy Lamb Books. 978-0-385-73784-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 6-10). Modo, a young, hunchbacked shape shifter abandoned near Notre Dame, is adopted by a not altogether benevolent Englishman and groomed to become an agent for a secret service organization called The Permanent Association. A fun and unexpectedly rich blend of action, literary references and steampunk science fiction set in the Victorian era.

Smiley, Jane. *The Georges and the Jewels*. Alfred Knopf. 978-0-375-86227-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-9). Horse stories abound. Well-developed, believable characters, a strong presentation of time and place, and engaging first-person narrator, seventh grader Abby, move this one to the front of the herd. She's tasked with gentling a horse she fears, to satisfy her domineering father. Ample horse training information and nifty drawings of horse paraphernalia round out this horse-tale.

Spires, Ashley. *Binky the Spacecat*. Kids Can Press. 978-1-55453-419-7, T \$8.95 (Grade 2-4). Binky, the pudgy black and white house cat, is on a mission to build a rocket ship and protect his humans from an invasion of aliens (typical house bugs). Graphic panels make for a quick, inviting tale for young readers. We hope to see more of Binky.

Stadler, Alexander. *Julian Rodriguez . Episode Two: Invasion of the Relatives*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-43991-967-8, T \$16.99 (Grade 2-5). Conversation between imaginary first officer Rodriguez and the "mother ship" about the relatives coming for the holidays. Text combined with graphics (not boxed) offer a quick, appealing adventure.

Standiford, Natalie. *How to Say Goodbye in Robot*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-545-10708-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Nobodies at school, Bea and Jonah grow a friendship through joining the misfits of a late night call-in radio show. Bea escapes her parents' disintegrating marriage by helping Jonah search for his disabled twin brother, whom he had been led to believe had died. Theirs is an intricate and deep friendship, a platonic love not usually found in teen novels. We all mourn the mistake that costs Bea their friendship.

Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*. Arthur A. Levine Books. 978-0-545-05474-4, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Asperger's Syndrome has kept high school senior Marcelo in a sheltered private school where he's happy--but not challenged--by interactions with the "real world." His father determines to immerse his son in a summer job in the

mailroom of his law firm, where Marcelo discovers a wonderful young woman, Jasmine, and his father's and others' troubling moral transgressions. Deeply satisfying. (Schneider Family Book Award)

Sturtevant, Katherine. *The Brothers Story*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 978-0-374-30992-3, T \$16.99 (Grade 8-12). At times a bit bawdy, but perfect in its realistic depiction of one of the coldest winters ever in England, 1683-84. Sturtevant presents the dilemma of Kit, who leaves behind his mentally disabled twin, Christopher, and heads to London, seeking a better life, but haunted by his brother's plight. Preoccupied with his sexual and emotional craving for Priscilla, a young servant, his character is thoroughly believable.

Tan, Shaun. *Tales from Outer Suburbia*. Scholastic Press. 978-054505-587-1, T \$19.99 (Grade 6-12). A masterpiece of magical realism, the fantastical illustrations that accompany each short story in this dreamlike collection mirror the quirky and ethereal tone of the text.

Taylor, Laini. *Lips Touch Three Times*. Arthur A. Levine books. 978-0-545-05585-7, T \$17.99 (Grade 8-12). Each of three tales begins with a series of graphic novel style illustrations. These tantalizingly but only broadly outline the stories. Readers will want to revisit them after reading the eerie tales, abounding with the supernatural, all involving a first kiss, but never an innocent peck on the playground. These are more like edgy, slightly twisted fairy tales.

Thor, Annika. *A Faraway Island*. Delacorte Press. 878-0-385-73617-6, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-12). Translated beautifully from Swedish, and based on the lives of real children, this entrancing historical novel follows the evacuation of Stephie, twelve, and her younger sister, Nellie, seven, from the beginning of the Holocaust in Austria, where their Jewish parents remain, to placement with two families on a Swedish island, and all of the adjustments, challenges and maturation that requires.

Umansky, Kaye. *Clover Twig and the Magical Cottage*. Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-507-0, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Clover, the daughter of a very poor family, secretly takes a paying job cleaning Mrs. Eckles' very dirty cottage. Is Clover crazy? Doesn't she know Mrs. Eckles is a witch? A fun, light-hearted magical read.

Valentine, Jenny. *Broken Soup*. Harper Teen. 978-0-06-085071-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 7-10). After the death of her brother Jack, her parents' divorce, and her mother's descent into severe depression, Rowan becomes the main caretaker for her five-year-old sister. Life changes drastically when a stranger hands her a photo negative that turns out to be of her deceased brother. Help arrives in the form of characters with depth and true caring for the load this teen carries.

Vernon, Ursula. *Dragonbreath*. Dial. 978-0-80373-363-3, T \$12.99 (Grade 3-5). Dragon Danny Dragonbreath and his pal Wendell the iguana, visit Danny's cousin, Edward the Sea Serpent, who takes them on a wild ride through the Sargasso Sea. Text and graphic panels combine for a thrilling adventure under the sea.

Wells, Rosemary. *Lincoln and His Boys*. Candlewick. 978-0-76363-723-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). Three stories of Abraham and Mary Lincoln and the tumultuous times in which they lived are presented through the eyes of their children, Willie and Tad. The illustrations by P.J. Lynch and the language nicely reflect the time period and the children's deep affection for their parents as well as the terrible strain on this famous family. The stories are based on writings by Willie Lincoln.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. Simon Pulse. 978-1-4169-7173-3, T \$19.99 (Grade 6-10). This science fiction alternative history set at the outbreak of World War I weaves together the fates of two young people in a world where the Darwinists (British and their allies) have grown war machines from animals by genetically altering and splicing DNA, while the Clankers (Austro-Hungarians) have built huge, steam-powered vessels. This breathtaking, action-oriented tale will thrill readers and its cliffhanger ending will leave them eager for the next in the planned series.

Wight, Eric. *Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom*. Simon & Schuster. 978-1-41696-484-1, T \$9.99 (Grade 2-4). Young Indiana Jones enthusiasts will snap right into this tale of Frankie Pickle and his closet of doom. Part graphic fantasy, part story, Frankie and his sidekick, Argyle the dog, are on a mission to avoid cleaning his room. Frankie quickly learns what the word "consequence" means and does not like it!

Wyatt, Melissa. *Funny How Things Change*. Farrar Straus & Giroux. 978-0-37430-233-7, T \$16.95 (Grade 9-12). The arrival of a magnetic college art major in his rural mountainous West Virginia hometown upsets 18-year-old Remy's plans to move away with his girlfriend as she goes off to college. This poignant, realistic coming-of-age story focuses as much outward as in as it explores the devastation wreaked by mountaintop removal mining in an Appalachian community.

Yee, Lisa. *Absolutely Maybe*. Arthur A. Levine Books. 978-0-439-83844-3, T \$16.99 (Grade 7-10). Escaping her ex-beauty queen mother, Maybe heads to Los Angeles with best friends Hollywood and Ted. Watched over by these friends, Maybe finds her favorite ex-stepfather as well as her biological father.

Yee, Wong Herbert. *Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-54715-222-6, R \$15.00 (Grade 1-2). It is now springtime and mouse and mole are on a mission to do some bird watching. Unfortunately, as they get close to each subject, it flies away. How will they find success? Reminiscent of Frog and Toad, these early chapter books are refreshing and fun.

2010 National Award Winners

Award books listed here may or may not be included in the "Cream of the Crop" list

* indicates a title that may appear in more than one category

Caldecott Medal – *Awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.*

Winner: Pinkney, Jerry. *Lion & the Mouse*

Honors: Scanlon, Liz Garton. *All the World*. Illustrated by Marla Frazee

Sidman, Joyce. *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*. Illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski

Coretta Scott King Award – *Recognizes outstanding books for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.*

Author Award

Winner: Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshall*.

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Honor: Davis, Tanita S. *Mare's War*

Illustrator Award

Winner: Hughes, Langston. *My People*. Illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr.

Honor: Hughes, Langston. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award

Kekla Magoon, *The Rock and the River*

Coretta Scott King/Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Walter Dean Myers

Laura Ingalls Wilder Award – *Honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.*

Ashley Bryan (Maine's own!)

Lupine Award – *Presented annually by the Youth Services Section of the Maine Library Association, to recognize an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Maine.*

Picture Book

Winner: Van Dusen, Chris. *The Circus Ship*

Honor: Freeburg, Jane. *The Scallop Christmas*. Illustrated by Astrid Sheckels

J/YA

Winner: *Philbrick, Rodman. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*

Honor: Small, David. *Stitches: A Memoir* by

Mildred L. Batchelder Award – *Awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country, and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States.*

Winner: Thor, Annika. *Faraway Island*. Translated by Linda Schenck

Honors: Bredsdorff, Bodil. *Eidi*. Translated by Kathryn Mahaffy

Brun-Cosme, Nadine. *Big Wolf & Little Wolf*. Illustrated by Olivier Tallec and translated by Claudia Bedrick

Uehashi, Nahoko. *Moribito II: Guardian of the Darkness*. Illustrated by Yuko Shimizu and translated by

Cathy Hirano

Newbery Medal – *The most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.*

Winner: Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*

Honors: *Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice*

Kelly, Jacqueline. *Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*

*Philbrick, Rodman. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*

Printz (Michael L.) Award – *Awarded for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.*

Winner: Bray, Libba. *Going Bovine*

Honors: Barnes, John. *Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973*

*Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith*

Rapp, Adam. *Punkzilla*

Yancey, Rick. *Monstrumologist*

Pura Belpre – *The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.*

Author Award

Winner: Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender*

Honors: *Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. *Diego: Bigger Than Life*. Illustrated by David Diaz
Lázaro, Georgina. *Federico Garcia Lorca*. Illustrated by Enrique S. Moreiro

Illustrator Award

Winner: Mora, Pat. *Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day; Celebremos El día de los niños/El día de los libros*.
Illustrated by Rafael Lopez

Honors: *Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. *Diego: Bigger Than Life*. Illustrated by David Diaz
Johnston, Tony. *My Abuelita*. Illustrated by Yuyi Morales
Mora, Pat *Gracias=Thanks*. Illustrated by John Parra

Robert F. Sibert Medal – *Honors the most distinguished informational book published in English in the preceding year for its significant contribution to children's literature.*

Winner: *Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream*

Honors: Barton, Chris. *Day Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors*.
Illustrated by Tony Persiani
Floca, Brian. *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*
*Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice*

Schneider Family Book Award – *Honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.*

Children's (birth to age 10): Christensen, Bonnie. *Django*

Middle (age 11-13): Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything But Typical*

Teen (age 13-18): Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award – *Honors the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished contribution to the body of American children's literature known as beginning reader books published in the United States during the preceding year.*

Winner: Hayes, Geoffrey. *Benny and Penny in the Big No-No!*

Honors: Arnold, Tedd. *I Spy Fly Guy!*
McMullan, Kate. *Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day*
Smith, Jeff. *Little Mouse Gets Ready*
Yee, Wong Herbert. *Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends*

William C. Morris Award – *First awarded in 2009, honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature.*

L. K. Madigan. *Flash Burnout*

Special thanks to the Cream of the Crop Committee

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